

Department for Environment and Heritage

There's a bandicoot in my backyard



Government
of South Australia



www.environment.sa.gov.au

Nationally endangered

Eight species of bandicoots and bilbies once occupied South Australia. The Southern Brown Bandicoot is the last species naturally occurring in the state. Two subspecies are present in South Australia, but only one occurs on the mainland. This subspecies is present in the Mount Lofty Ranges, South East and Kangaroo Island. It also occupies areas in Victoria and New South Wales. The Southern Brown Bandicoot is nationally endangered.

Why are they threatened?

Most of the natural vegetation where Southern Brown Bandicoots once existed has been cleared, grazed or modified. This has resulted in some areas becoming unsuitable for occupation and existing populations being fragmented. Foxes, cats and dogs also prey on Southern Brown Bandicoots.

Southern Brown Bandicoot in backyard.



Southern Brown Bandicoot diggings are typically conical. Footprints and tail prints may be visible in the disturbed soil.

What does a bandicoot look like?

Southern Brown Bandicoots are often confused with 'giant rats' and 'possums'. They have a long pointed snout, small round ears, a robust body shape and short tail. They are brown in colour with gold flecks and pale underneath, and are roughly one third to half the size of a rabbit.

Where does it live?

Southern Brown Bandicoots prefer dense vegetation close to the ground. Native species of plants such as yaccas and banksias provide good cover, however, introduced species such as Blackberry, Pampas Grass and Agapanthus may also provide cover in modified landscapes. Bandicoots prefer to nest above the ground in dense vegetation, but they do use less vegetated areas to dig for invertebrates, fungi and plant matter in and on the soil. Southern Brown Bandicoots are primarily active at night, but can sometimes be seen during the day.

How can I help in my backyard?

If you see Southern Brown Bandicoots in your backyard please remember they are wild native mammals. To encourage bandicoots to continue living in your backyard, keep your cat inside at night and plant locally native shrubs in your garden.

How can I help in my local park?

- Keep your dog on a leash.
- Join a local Friends group to help in the management and conservation of the natural environment.

How can I help in my local community?

Join a local community group helping conservation of native wildlife in your local area.

Contact the Department for Environment and Heritage to find out more...

Members from the Nature Conservation Society of SA Inc investigating bandicoot diggings.





Bandicoot monitoring is an important part of species recovery.

Have you seen a bandicoot?

Please contact your local national parks office if you have a Southern Brown Bandicoot living on your property.

Do not trap bandicoots...

If you are not sure whether you have bandicoots in your backyard please contact your local national parks office for assistance.

Acknowledgements

Nature Foundation of South Australia,
Natural Heritage Trust,
The Greater Mount Lofty Parklands - Yurrebilla,
Department for Environment and Heritage.

For further information contact:

Department for Environment and Heritage

- Southern Brown Bandicoot Recovery
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